

Ms. CASTOR. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. I encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on this previous question. Deal with the issue of FISA and deal with it now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, for today we are here on the Children's Health and Medicare Act, the CHAMP Act.

And, Madam Speaker, I hope the American people know there are many champions for America's kids standing up for our hardworking families in the Nation's Capitol today; and we are joining with Republican and Democratic Governors from across the country fighting for a new direction, for a healthier and economically sound America.

It was only 8 months ago when Speaker NANCY PELOSI accepted the gavel as the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives. She accepted that gavel on behalf of America's children, and we're going to keep our promise to America's kids today.

There's another champion in the Chair of the Rules Committee, Ms. LOUISE SLAUGHTER, who has helped us fight through these delaying tactics to bring this bill to the floor, and we will vote on it today.

In the Energy and Commerce Committee, Chairman JOHN DINGELL continues to be a voice of clarity and advocacy for America's children; and he is joined by the voices, the loud voices, of Congressman FRANK PALLONE and Congresswoman DIANA DEGETTE and the members of that committee.

In the Ways and Means Committee, where PAYGO means something now in this new Congress, Chairman CHARLIE RANGEL has led our effort to pay for this Act.

And I salute the subcommittee Chair, Mr. PETE STARK, and the members of that committee and many, many more on the floor of this House, who are not just Members of Congress, but we are also parents and we are grandparents.

The real champions, however, are the parents across America working to make ends meet and provide their children with a healthy and successful life. We are on their side today and every day, even in the face of resistance from the White House, where the President suggests that the health care for America's kids can be found in the emergency rooms of local hospitals. That is wrong.

Instead, through the SCHIP program and children's health care and this innovative partnership between communities, States and Federal Government, we will make important investments in our kids and their health today that will pay dividends down the road for our economy. It will reduce the strain on our emergency rooms, our crowded local emergency rooms, and it will reduce the strain on moms and dads.

This is, indeed, a historic day, a day for a new direction, a day full of hope

for the health of our children and a better America.

I urge a "yes" vote on the previous question and on the rule.

The material previously referred to by Mr. SESSIONS is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 594 OFFERED BY MR. SESSIONS OF TEXAS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

Sec. 3. That immediately upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall, without intervention of any point of order, consider the bill (H.R. 3138) to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to update the definition of electronic surveillance. All points of order against the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; and (2) one motion to recommit.

(The information contained herein was provided by Democratic Minority on multiple occasions throughout the 109th Congress.)

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Democratic majority agenda and a vote to allow the opposition, at least for the moment, to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives, (VI, 308-311) describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

Because the vote today may look bad for the Democratic majority they will say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the definition of the previous question used in the Floor Procedures Manual published by the Rules Committee in the 109th Congress, (page 56). Here's how the Rules Committee described the rule using information from Congressional Quarterly's American Congressional Dictionary: "If the previous question is defeated, control of debate shifts to the leading opposition member (usually the minority Floor Manager) who then manages an hour of debate and may offer a germane amendment to the pending business."

Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Democratic majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 228, nays 190, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 784]

YEAS—228

Abercrombie	Cramer	Hinojosa
Ackerman	Crowley	Hirono
Allen	Cuellar	Hodes
Altmire	Cummings	Holden
Andrews	Davis (AL)	Holt
Arcuri	Davis (CA)	Honda
Baca	Davis (IL)	Hooley
Baird	Davis, Lincoln	Hoyer
Baldwin	DeFazio	Inslee
Barrow	DeGette	Israel
Bean	Delahunt	Jackson (IL)
Becerra	DeLauro	Jackson-Lee
Berkley	Dicks	(TX)
Berman	Dingell	Jefferson
Berry	Doggett	Johnson (GA)
Bishop (GA)	Donnelly	Johnson, E. B.
Bishop (NY)	Doyle	Jones (OH)
Blumenauer	Edwards	Kagen
Boren	Ellison	Kanjorski
Boswell	Ellsworth	Kaptur
Boucher	Emanuel	Kennedy
Boyd (FL)	Engel	Kildee
Boyd (KS)	Eshoo	Kilpatrick
Brady (PA)	Etheridge	Kind
Braley (IA)	Farr	Klein (FL)
Brown, Corrine	Fattah	Kucinich
Butterfield	Filner	Lampson
Capps	Frank (MA)	Langevin
Capuano	Giffords	Lantos
Cardoza	Gillibrand	Larsen (WA)
Carnahan	Gonzalez	Larson (CT)
Carney	Gordon	Lee
Carson	Green, Al	Levin
Castor	Green, Gene	Lewis (GA)
Chandler	Grijalva	Lipinski
Clay	Gutierrez	Loebsock
Cleaver	Hall (NY)	Lofgren, Zoe
Clyburn	Hare	Lowey
Cohen	Harman	Lynch
Conyers	Hastings (FL)	Mahoney (FL)
Cooper	Herseth Sandlin	Maloney (NY)
Costa	Higgins	Markey
Costello	Hill	Marshall
Courtney	Hinchey	Matheson